

## Minutes of the Committee on Best Practices of November 19, 2008

The meeting was called as to order at 6:00 PM in Room 103 at JFK. Present were Lisa DePiano, Michael Bardsley, Alex Ghiselin, Jim Palermo, David Narkewicz and Bob Reckman. Citizens present were Jesus Leyva and Adam Cohen. Adam Cohen videotaped the meeting. Wendy Foxmyn was not able to attend.

The revised minutes of our meeting of Nov. 12 were approved.

Bob and Lisa described their meetings with all 3 local papers last week and their hope for better coverage of our draft report presentation and the public forum we have planned for January 5.

We discussed our final report. David and Wendy volunteered to compile the final report language. Once we agree on the recommendations themselves, they will put them into consistent form and distribute their draft to the committee for comment. We agreed that we still hope to present the draft report to the City Council on Dec. 4.

We continued our discussion of possible recommendations from our last meeting. We agreed that there should be a recommendation that the Council adopt a resolution endorsing the idea of Best Practices. Wendy and David will draft the language for this. It could also include Wendy's suggestion about adopting an ethics code as part of this recommendation.

We discussed the idea of more resources and independence for the City Council. This ties in with a number of other recommendations for the Council. We will try to combine many of them into one Council centered recommendation. The recommendation will be to conduct a "review of the role and function of the City Council." Michael will draft some language and send it to David and Wendy for finalization.

Wendy will incorporate the welcoming language from the whiteboard into the vision statement.

We agreed that citizen volunteer suggestion should be incorporated into other recommendations for citizen participation.

We agreed that we would recommend an independent professional review of the Planning Department similar to recent reviews of the Fire Department, DPW, the Assessor's office, etc. Jim will draft language for this and get it to David and Wendy.

Bob will draft a stand alone website recommendation and send it to Wendy and David.

Adam and Jesus left at 7 PM.

We reviewed the draft language submitted by 5 committee members. We discussed Michael's recommendations in detail. We were concerned about the level of detail of

these recommendations compared to our other ones. We reviewed Alex's recommendations and agreed to incorporate some of Lisa's language about training into them. David's recommendations will be folded into the meeting protocol recommendations. Wendy's language was reviewed and David will provide her our feedback.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 6 PM in the BPW Board room. Lisa will not be in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

Bob Reckman